

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 5 (cancelled).

Claims 6 – 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (new): A method which may be used to protect equipment from corrosion, said method comprising protecting pieces of equipment from corrosion by treating said pieces of equipment with a first protective coating, wherein:

- a) said pieces of equipment are exposed to high temperatures and to at least one fluid, wherein said fluid comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
 - 1) a hydrocarbon; and
 - 2) carbon monoxide;
- b) said pieces of equipment are made from an alloy, wherein said alloy comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
 - 1) nickel;
 - 2) iron;
 - 3) chromium; and
 - 4) aluminum; and
- c) said pieces of equipment are joined together with joining pieces, wherein:
 - 1) said joining pieces are protected from corrosion over at least part of their surface by a second protective coating;
 - 2) said joining pieces are welded to said pieces of equipment; and
 - 3) said protecting of said joining pieces occurs prior to said welding of said joining pieces.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 22, further comprising producing said second protective coating by aluminization.

Claim 24 (new): An apparatus which may be used for generating a synthesis gas from a hydrocarbon mixture, said apparatus comprising:

- a) at least two equipment pieces, wherein:
 - 1) said equipment pieces are exposed to high temperatures and at least one fluid, wherein said fluid comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) a hydrocarbon; and
 - ii) carbon monoxide;
 - 2) said equipment pieces are made of an alloy, wherein said alloy comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) nickel;
 - ii) iron;
 - iii) chromium; and
 - iv) aluminum; and
 - 3) said equipment pieces comprise a first protective coating, wherein said first protective coating provides said equipment pieces with protection from corrosion; and
- b) at least one joining piece, wherein:
 - 1) said joining piece is welded to said equipment pieces;
 - 2) said joining piece is at least partly exposed to said fluid; and
 - 3) said joining piece comprises a second protective coating, wherein said second protective coating provides at least part of said joining piece with protection from corrosion.

Claim 25 (new): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said second protective coating is produced by aluminization.